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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,870	03/22/2004	Eric B. Watson	306411.01/MFCP.140316	1784
45809 7590 11/17/2008 SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P. (c/o MICROSOFT CORPORATION) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 2555 GRAND BOULEVARD KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-2613				
EXAMINER				
POUNCE, DARNELL A				
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3688				
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11/17/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/805,870

Applicant(s)

WATSON ET AL.

Examiner

DARNELL POUNCIL

Art Unit

3688

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to the Amendment filed on July 21, 2008. The Amendment amended Claims 21-25 and 30. Therefore, the currently pending claims considered below are Claims 1-30.

The examiner withdraws the rejection made under rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 21, 2008 have been fully considered and in view of the new rejections below, are moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
4. Claims 1 - 8 and 12- 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamangar et al. (US 2003/0046161), hereinafter referred to as Kamangar, in view of Asayama(2003/0220837)

With respect to **Claims 1 & 12**: Kamangar discloses a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page, the method comprising: monitoring a performance of a paid listing placed for a fee in a search results Web page; (See Para. 12) determining a paid yield associated with the paid listing based on the latest performance,(abstract) but does not explicitly disclose conversion data, wherein the paid yield represents sales revenue resulting from all user referrals to the destination Web site over a period of time; receiving conversion data associated with the paid listing, the conversion data representing sales revenue resulting from a user referral to a destination Web site associated with the paid listing; placing the paid listing in the search results Web page based on the paid yield.

However Asayama teaches conversion data, wherein the paid yield represents sales revenue resulting from all user referrals to the destination Web site over a period of time; ([0005 & 0023]) and receiving conversion data associated with the paid listing, the conversion data representing sales revenue resulting from a user referral to a

destination Web site associated with the paid listing; ([0005 & 0023,0024]); placing the paid listing in the search results Web page based on the paid yield. ([5])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified the method of Kamangar wherein the paid yield represents sales revenue resulting from all user referrals to the destination Web site over a period of time; and receiving conversion data associated with the paid listing, the conversion data representing sales revenue resulting from a user referral to a destination Web site associated with the paid listing placing the paid listing in the search results Web page based on the paid yield, in order to provide the customer and the advertiser the best possible experience, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 2**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose the method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page, as in claim 1 above, and Kamangar further discloses wherein the user referral to the destination Web site occurs when a user clicks on the paid listing to navigate to the destination Web site, and the performance of the paid listing is a click-through rate, where the click-through rate is derived from a number of times the paid listing is placed in the search results Web page, as compared to a number of times the user clicks on the paid listing after being displayed. ([0014])

Regarding **claim 3**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page as in claim 1 above, and Asayama further teaches wherein the placement fee is a percentage of the paid yield associated with the paid listing.([0018])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein the placement fee is a percentage of the paid yield associated with the paid listing, in order to properly associate a fee with paid listings, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claims 4 & 13**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page as claim 1 above, and Kamanger further discloses selecting the paid listing for placing in the search results Web page, but does not explicitly disclose selecting the paid listing for placing in the search results Web page based on the paid yield.

However Asayama teaches wherein selecting the paid listing for placing in the search results Web page based on the paid yield.([0005 & 0017])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar teaches wherein selecting the paid listing for placing in the search results Web page based on the paid yield, in order to assure that the better performing advertisements are obtaining better placement than non performing advertisements , since so doing could be performed

readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 5**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page of claim 1, and Asayama further teaches wherein the conversion data includes data that captures a monetized event that occurred as a result of the user referral to the destination Web site associated with the paid listing, the monetized event including at least one of a sale of a product, a sale of a service, and another referral to an entity associated with the destination Web site, the entity including at least one of an individual, a business, and another Web site. ([0003])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar where in the conversion data includes data that captures a monetized event that occurred as a result of the user referral to the destination Web site associated with the paid listing, the monetized event including at least one of a sale of a product, a sale of a service, and another referral to an entity associated with the destination Web site, the entity including at least one of an individual, a business, and another Web sit, in order to properly calculate conversion data, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 6**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing

the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page as claim 1 above, and Kamangar further discloses wherein placing the paid listing in the search results Web page based on the paid yield includes placing the paid listing having a higher paid yield before the paid listing having a lower paid yield. ([0044 – 0046])

Regarding **claim 7**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page as claim 4 above, and Kamangar further discloses wherein selecting the paid listing for placing in the search results Web page based on the paid yield includes selecting the paid listing having a higher paid yield over the paid listing having a lower paid yield. ([0044 – 0046])

Regarding **claim 8**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page as claim 5 above, and Asayama further teaches wherein the conversion data includes a dollar value associated with the monetized event.([0003])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein teaches wherein the conversion data includes a dollar value associated with the monetized event, in order to properly assign an exact dollar value to the conversion data, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 12**, Kamangar et al. discloses, a paid listing yield optimization system comprising: a performance data repository containing performance data for a paid listing placed in a search results Web page, the performance data indicating how many times users visited a destination Web site by clicking on the paid listing;([0014]) but does not explicitly disclose a conversion data repository containing conversion data for the paid listing, the conversion data indicating how much money was generated when a user visited the destination Web site; and a processor to calculate a paid yield associated with the paid listing based on current performance and conversion data, the paid yield indicating how much money was generated when users visited the destination Web site over a period of time, and to place the paid listing on the search results Web page in exchange for a portion of the paid yield.

However Asayama teaches a conversion data repository containing conversion data for the paid listing, the conversion data indicating how much money was generated when a user visited the destination Web site; ([0024])and a processor to calculate a paid yield associated with the paid listing based on current performance and conversion data([0019, processor]), the paid yield indicating how much money was generated when users visited the destination Web site over a period of time, ([0024])and to place the paid listing on the search results Web page in exchange for a portion of the paid yield.([0003])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein teaches a conversion data repository containing conversion data for the paid listing, the conversion data indicating how much money was generated when a user visited the destination Web site; and a processor to calculate a paid yield associated with the paid listing based on current performance and conversion data, the paid yield indicating how much money was generated when users visited the destination Web site over a period of time, and to place the paid listing on the search results Web page in exchange for a portion of the paid yield, in order to track the return on the investment and also allow said person to receive a commission for ad placement, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 14**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a paid listing yield system as claim 12 above, and Kamangar further discloses wherein the performance data further indicates how many times the processor placed the paid listing on the search results Web page, and the processor measures a performance of the paid listing by comparing the number of visits to the number of placements. ([0008])

Regarding **claim 15**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose disclose a paid listing yield system as claim 14 above, and Kamangar further discloses wherein to calculate the paid yield associated with the paid listing includes to calculate a conversion rate equaling an average amount of money generated per visit and to multiply the

conversion rate by the performance. ([0045-0047])

Regarding **claim 16**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose disclose a paid listing yield system as claim 12 above, and Asayama further teaches wherein the processor receives updates to the conversion data repository from the destination Web site. [0005 & 0024])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein teaches the processor receives updates to the conversion data repository from the destination Web site, in order to track the return on the investment and also track the efficiency of the advertisements, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **Claims 17**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a paid listing yield system as claim 12 above, Asayama teaches wherein the reported data is generated by a third party vendor that tracks how much money was generated and purchase activity at the destination Web site. ([0005 & 0006])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein the reported data is generated by a third party vendor that tracks purchase activity at the destination Web site, in order to receive any information regarding purchases from several said websites

and by using a third party vendor would decrease the traffic on said network, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **Claim 18**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a paid yield optimization system as in claim 12 above, and Asayama further teaches wherein the processor receives updates to the conversion data repository from an intelligent agent initiated by the processor when the user clicked on the paid listing to visit the destination Web site. ([0025 & 0032])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein the processor receives updates to the conversion data repository from an intelligent agent initiated by the processor when the user clicked on the paid listing to visit the destination Web site, in order to receive return on investment information, thereby insuring the advertising is performing efficiently, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results

Regarding **Claim 19**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose disclose a paid listing yield system as claim 12 above, but do not explicitly disclose the reported data is generated in a common format irrespective of whether the data is generated by one of a destination Web site, an intelligent agent, and a third party vendor. However Official

Notice is taken that it is old and well known within the data processing arts to use a common data format irrespective of who generates it. For example, it is common for files to be translated in ".txt" files in order to enabled the exchange of these files between IBM, Apple, and UNIX computers. Similarly, it is common for the .txt format to be used when transferring files between Microsoft Word™ and Word Perfect™ word processing systems.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Kamangar so as to have included a common format irrespective of whether the data is generated by one of a destination Web site, an intelligent agent, and a third party vendor in order to provide a common data format, since doing so could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **Claims 20**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a paid yield optimization system as in claim 12 above, and Asayama further teaches wherein the conversion data repository includes data associated with different destination Web sites, each destination Web site using a data format specific to that destination Web site. ([0023])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar conversion data repository includes data associated with different destination Web sites, each destination Web site using a data format specific to that destination Web site, in order to

inform the web affiliate which web site should compensated for any said transactions, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results

Regarding **Claim 21**, Kamangar discloses, a computer-accessible medium having instructions for making optimal use of paid placement space on a search results user interface, the instructions comprising:

recording a number of times a user navigates from a paid listing placed in a search results user interface to a destination Web site associated with the listing; ([40], click through count, is associated with the recording of clicks) but does not explicitly disclose capturing a revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation; calculating a paid yield of the paid listing based on the number of user navigations and the revenue amount of purchases; and placing the paid listing on the search results user interface in exchange for a share of the paid yield, wherein the placement in the search results user interface is determined, in part, by the captured revenue amount of purchases and the calculated paid yield.

However Asayama teaches capturing a revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation; ([0005]) calculating a paid yield of the paid listing based on the number of user navigations and the revenue amount of purchases; ([0003]) and placing the paid listing on the search results user interface in exchange for a share of the paid yield, wherein the placement in the search

results user interface is determined, in part, by the captured revenue amount of purchases and the calculated paid yield. ([0018], commission)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein teaches capturing a revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation; calculating a paid yield of the paid listing based on the number of user navigations and the revenue amount of purchases; and placing the paid listing on the search results user interface in exchange for a share of the paid yield, wherein the placement in the search results user interface is determined, in part, by the captured revenue amount of purchases and the calculated paid yield, in order to track the return on the investment and also allow said person to receive a commission for ad placement, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 22**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose the computer-accessible medium of Claim 21, and Kamangar further discloses recording a number of times the paid listing is placed in the search results user interface([0033], impressions) and measuring a performance of the paid listing where the performance is a comparison between the number of times the user navigated to the destination Web site and the number of times the paid listing was placed. ([0008])

Regarding **claim 23**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose the computer-accessible medium of Claim 22, and Asayama further teaches wherein the calculating the paid yield includes a conversion rate associated with the paid listing that indicates an average revenue amount of purchases per user navigation and the paid yield equals the conversion rate multiplied by the measured performance. ([0028, 0029])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein teaches calculating the paid yield includes a conversion rate associated with the paid listing that indicates an average revenue amount of purchases per user navigation and the paid yield equals the conversion rate multiplied by the measured performance in order to track the efficiency of the advertising, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 24**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose the computer-accessible medium of Claim 21, and Asayama further teaches wherein the capturing the revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation includes generating an intelligent agent when the user navigates to the destination Web site, where the intelligent agent tracks user activity at the destination Web site and reports back the revenue amount of the user's purchase.([0005])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein teaches the

capturing the revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation includes generating an intelligent agent when the user navigates to the destination Web site, where the intelligent agent tracks user activity at the destination Web site and reports back the revenue amount of the user's purchase in order to track the efficiency of the advertising, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 25**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose the computer-accessible medium of claim 21 above, and Asayama further teaches wherein the capturing the revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation includes receiving data reporting the amount of the user's purchase.
([0024])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein the capturing the revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation includes receiving data reporting the amount of the user's purchase, in order to track the efficiency of the advertising, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 26**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose the computer-accessible medium of Claim 25, and Asayama further teaches wherein the reported data is generated by the destination Web site. ([0005])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein teaches the reported data is generated by the destination Web site, in order to receive any information regarding purchases from said website, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **Claims 27**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a paid listing yield system as claim 25 above, and Asayama teaches wherein the reported data is generated by a third party vendor that tracks purchase activity at the destination Web site. ([0005 & 0006])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein the reported data is generated by a third party vendor that tracks purchase activity at the destination Web site, in order to receive any information regarding purchases from several said websites and by using a third party vendor would decrease the traffic on said network, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding Claims **28 & 29**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose disclose a paid listing yield system as claim 25 above, but do not explicitly disclose the reported data is generated in a common format irrespective of whether the data is generated by one of a destination Web site, an intelligent agent, and a third party vendor. However Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known within the data processing arts to use a common data format irrespective of who generates it. For example, it is common for files to be translated in ".txt" files in order to enabled the exchange of these files between IBM, Apple, and UNIX computers. Similarly, it is common for the .txt format to be used when transferring files between Microsoft Word™ and Word Perfect™ word processing systems.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the system of Kamangar so as to have included a common format irrespective of whether the data is generated by one of a destination Web site, an intelligent agent, and a third party vendor in order to provide a common data format, since doing so could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 30**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose the computer-accessible medium of Claim 21, and Asayama further teaches wherein the capturing the revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation includes capturing a monetized event that occurred as a result of the user

navigating to the destination Web site, the monetized event including at least one of a sale of a product, a sale of a service, and a user navigation to an entity associated with the destination Web site, the entity including at least one of an individual, a business, and another Web site.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention, to have modified method of Kamangar wherein the capturing the revenue amount of purchases generated at the destination Web site as a result of the user navigation includes capturing a monetized event that occurred as a result of the user navigating to the destination Web site, the monetized event including at least one of a sale of a product, a sale of a service, and a user navigation to an entity associated with the destination Web site, the entity including at least one of an individual, a business, and another Web site in order to receive any information regarding purchases from several said websites and by using a third party vendor would decrease the traffic on said network, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.([0022, 0024])

5. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamangar et al. (US 2003/0046161), hereinafter referred to as Kamangar, in view of Corn et. al. (2004/0167845), hereinafter referred to as Corn.

Regarding **claim 9**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page as claim 8 above, but do

not explicitly disclose wherein determining a paid yield associated with the paid listing based on the latest performance and conversion data, includes calculating a conversion rate, where the conversion rate equals the total dollar value associated with the monetized events occurring as the result of user referrals to the destination Web site divided by the total number of user referrals over the period of time.

However Corn teaches wherein determining a paid yield associated with the paid listing based on the latest performance and conversion data, includes calculating a conversion rate, where the conversion rate equals the total dollar value associated with the monetized events occurring as the result of user referrals to the destination Web site divided by the total number of user referrals over the period of time.([0034])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have modified the method of Kamangar et al. so as to have a determining a paid yield associated with the paid listing based on the latest performance and conversion data, includes calculating a conversion rate, where the conversion rate equals the total dollar value associated with the monetized events occurring as the result of user referrals to the destination Web site divided by the total number of user referrals over the period of time, in order to efficiently allow an affiliate to receive a commission that is reflective of the customer purchases, since so doing could be performed readily and easily by any person of ordinary skill in the art, with neither undue experimentation, nor risk of unexpected results.

Regarding **claim 10**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page as claim 9 above, and Kamangar further discloses where the period of time is the time it takes to achieve a predefined number of placements of the paid listing in the search results Web page.
([14])

Regarding **claim 11**, Kamangar and Asayama disclose a method for optimizing the use of paid placement space in a search results Web page as claim 10 above, and Kamangar further discloses wherein the predefined number of placements is equal to a number of impressions used to measure the performance of the paid listing. ([0008 & 0033])

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DARNELL POUNCIL whose telephone number is (571)270-3509. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8 to 5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Myhre can be reached on (571)272-6722. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 3688
October 1, 2008

/James W Myhre/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3688